

## Kane, Brittany

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**From:** Terrence Dowdye <terrence.dowdye@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 8:42 PM  
**To:** AppropriationTestimony  
**Cc:** KJERSTIN.PUGH@new-haven.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** After School Funding

Dear Appropriation Committee Members,

My name is Terrence Dowdye, I am currently a freshman at the University of New Haven, and I am a Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School graduate. I ask you today to continue to fund after school programs in Connecticut. I know that I cannot speak for all after school programs, but I can say that Co-Op After School is an amazing program that had a large effect on my life.

My freshman year, I was not engaged in my classes, so I started to branch out to new things. Lucky for me Co-Op AfterSchool was starting up, and gave me the opportunity to get involved with new aspects of art. When I started Co-Op AfterSchool I joined maybe 3 or 4 programs, but there was one that stuck out to me the most, and that was the Technical Theater program. There was something about the program that I fell in love with. I stayed with the program for two years, and it led me to a summer internship at the Shubert Theater that trained me for a job working in the Co-Op Theater, helping out with rental shows. I am still working rentals today. Between the job and the after school program I gained so much knowledge in the theater that I am now majoring in Theater Arts with a concentration in design and production. Through Co-Op AfterSchool, I have found myself, and I have also found a job that is helping me pay for school.

This program is not just an after school program; it has many perks that can lead to something bigger. This program has bridges with Yale University, and the Shubert Theater, and it provides great opportunities for the students in it. I know that this program helped me find myself, and it is doing the same for all of Co-Op's students.

Sincerely,  
Terrence Dowdye